



City of Alexandria

Transportation Commission

Regular Meeting

October 15, 2014

7:00 p.m.

Council Workroom

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Councilman Tim Lovain, Jake Jakubek, Jerry King, James Lewis, Nathan Macek, Monica Starnes, and Maria Wasowski

Staff Present: Carrie Beach – P&Z, Karen Callaham – T&ES, Carrie Sanders – T&ES, Allan Fye – T&ES, Steve Sindiong – T&ES

Chair Nathan Macek called the Transportation Commission meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

1. September 17, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Chair Nathan Macek called the meeting to order and if there were any edits to the September 17, 2014 minutes. Commissioner Jakubek stated Marti Reinfield had resigned and her name should be removed from the list as staff present. Chair Macek asked that the minutes be edited to include a brief summary the Commission's comments on the Memorial Circle Transportation Plan being conducted by the National Parks Service. He also stated that Transportation Commission outgoing correspondence should be memorialized, by including them with the minutes and being e-mailed to the Commission. There being no additional edits, a motion to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner Wasowski, seconded by Commissioner King, voted on and unanimously approved.

2. Updates To Receive (Consent Items)

The Commission received updates on the following: Funding Update; Potomac Yard Metrorail Station; Metroway (Route 1); Lower King Street Multimodal Feasibility Study; Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan Update; Eisenhower West Transportation Study; Oakville Triangle, the Parking Ratio Study and Capital Bikeshare. Chair Macek asked if there were any questions or discussions on any items on the consent calendar. He asked for information on the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) 70% funds the City requested, and what was actually funded. Staff Carrie Sanders responded that the staff person who is the expert on that answer was on funeral leave and he would have to follow up with the Commission. Commissioner Jakubek inquired about the Lower King Street Multimodal Feasibility Study. He asked if the Commission could examine the results of the refined alternatives that were presented to representatives of the Old Town Civic Association (OTCA) and representatives of the business

community for input. Staff Steve Sindiong stated he could email an overall summary of the meetings to the Commissioners. Commissioner King voiced concerns of the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Council (BPAC) regarding the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan Update. He stated BPAC is concerned that the City did not track the goals of the 2008 Pedestrian and Bicycle Mobility Plan and if those milestones were not tracked, they will not be in the current update. As an example, he mentioned the number of children who walked to school was reflected in the 2008 plan and asked what kind of follow up we expect in the updated plan. Carrie Sanders stated that not all goals are measureable, but that the project's Ad Hoc Committee will be involved in reviewing a summary of what has been completed since the 2008 plan. She indicated in the new plan, there will be more goals that are measureable. Chair Macek added that he feels policies on design features are needed in the update to provide guidance on intersection and pedestrian crossing design. Commissioner Jakubek identified traffic signals with leading pedestrian flash should be a standard City-wide and stated those should be added as a standard design. Staff indicated they would share that idea with the project consultant. Commissioner Wasowski gave a report on the main issue of the Oakville Triangle plan which is limited connectivity other than to Route 1. She indicated discussions are ongoing as to what other streets could connect with the triangle. One option is to connect with Calvert Avenue but that would impact the small park located there. Another option is Stewart Avenue on the west to Swann which would also impact the park. Councilman Lovain offered that a pedestrian bicycle trail could be the connection instead of a road. P&Z staff Carrie Beach added that the Metroway adds another level of complexity for the Oakville Triangle Plan. She reported that there will be an Open House on October 27, 2014 which will include initial results of the traffic study, a review of the different connectivity options and an opportunity for comments and questions. There were no additional requests to discuss any other updates; therefore, the Commission accepted the updates.

3. Commission Updates

Commissioner Monica Starnes reported that it is time for the Environmental Policy Commission (EPC) to revisit the City's 2009 Environmental Action Plan which is done every 5 years. The EPC is beginning discussions on the process, and the benchmarks and goals they want the City to accomplish in the future. She shared that transportation is one of the guiding principles. Commissioner Jakubek reported that he had been attending the West End Transitway's Policy Advisory Group and public meetings, and that there are upcoming meetings that T&ES staff Allan Fye will provide information on in his presentation tonight. Councilman Lovain reported that the Transportation Planning Board (TPB) approved the 2014 Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan (CLRP) and the FY 2015-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The Board will also approve the final call for next year's projects at its November 19, 2014 meeting. A key consideration will be whether projects meet sustainability and transit oriented development goals. TPB also voted to adopt Resolution R5-2015 finding that the 2014 CLRP and FY 2015-2020 TIP conform to the requirements of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990.

4. West End Transitway

T&ES staff Allan Fye gave an update on the West End Transitway Alternatives Analysis and Environmental Assessment (AA/EA), including three alternatives (No Build, TSM, and Build), public outreach, stakeholder coordination, evaluation measures, and next steps. He reported the second public meeting will be held on October 22, 2014. The meeting will focus on the project status update, an overview of the three alternatives being studied, a presentation of the initial results of the evaluation, next steps and an opportunity for citizen comments and feedback. Mr.

Fye also reported that the West End Transitway Policy Advisory Group (PAG) met twice to discuss design options that refine the corridor alignment, evaluation measures used to evaluate each alternative, service patterns, and the definition of the three study alternatives. Their next meeting is scheduled October 23, 2014. The meeting will focus on the results of the evaluation measures and the feedback received from the October 22nd public meeting.

Mr. Fye stated that the definition of alternatives is a key step in the AA process since it defines the core physical and operational attributes of each alternative. As the evaluation measures are applied to each alternative, the differences between each alternative becomes clearer and the continuum of cost and benefits becomes more pronounced. The results of the analysis will provide the basis for the eventual selection of a locally preferred alternative (LPA). Also after a tour along the corridor, representatives from Federal Transportation Administration (FTA) and Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR) informed City staff that they did not identify any issues, and that the Section 106 process could potentially be streamlined. Their final decision will be reflected in the EA.

5. Other Business

T&ES staff Carrie Sanders reminded Commissioners that staff was directed to return with revised language of the 2014 Transportation Long Range Plan (LRP) for the description of the intersection project at Mt. Vernon Avenue and Four Mile Road. The language has been changed from “Construct cul-de-sac from Bruce Street into park and construct new T intersection” to “Construct pedestrian, bicycle improvements as well as vehicular circulation improvements within the vicinity of the intersection of Mount Vernon Avenue and Four Mile Run.” It was the consensus of the Commissioners that the revised language is agreeable for the draft. T&ES staff Steve Sindiong noted that at the September Commission meeting, it was agreed that the intersection project would be added to the 2015 LRP update, using the revised project description.

Chair Macek indicated he received a letter from Alexandria’s Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) asking how the City could take advantage of the Federal Department of Transportation’s Safety Initiatives. Chair Macek handed over the letter to staff and asked them to follow up. Chair Macek also informed Commissioners about a City online survey seeking citizen input on their priorities for the City to help inform Council during the budget process. He encouraged everyone to participate in the survey. He also reported a letter he received from the City Manager addressed to Boards, Commissions, civic groups and other community leaders asking to meet in early November to discuss ways these groups can be engaged to provide input to the FY 2016 budget process. He suggested the Commission begin to think about budgetary impact items to forward to Council for input, and that staff begin to determine when the budget issues need to be brought to the Commission for input.

Commissioner King asked staff Carrie Sanders about a Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) bicycle and pedestrian advisory group that holds meeting regarding what is happening on the State level. Ms. Sanders indicated she will contact the State-wide Coordinator and ask to be added to the distribution list. He also stated that he found out that local hotels have loner bicycles for their guests.

Chair Macek made a motion to adjourn the meeting. There being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.